

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 09653 01 OF 02 101542Z
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EPG-02 AGR-05 USIE-00 AID-05 EB-07 AF-10
ARA-10 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 COME-00 ISO-00 TRSE-00
OIC-02 IOE-00 SSO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00
INRE-00 L-03 ABF-01 OMB-01 /097 W
-----101618Z 020407 /43
O 101501Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5236

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 ROME 9653

FODAG

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: FAO, EAGR
SUBJECT: 71ST FAO COUNCIL, ROME, JUNE 6-17

REF: A) STATE 132794 B) ROME 9341 C) ROME 9387

SUMMARY: ON BASIS REVISED INSTRUCTIONS (REFTEL A) DELEGATION MET SEPARATELY JUNE 9 WITH GENEVA GROUP AND DIRECTOR GENERAL AND SPOKE EARLY IN AFTERNOON DEBATE ITEM 16, PROGRAM OF WORK AND BUDGET. ALL REPRESENTATIONS WERE WITH GOOD EFFECT BUT DEBATE ITEM 16 WILL NOT BE CONCLUDED UNTIL JUNE 10. END SUMMARY.

1. MUST APPRECIATE PROMPT INSTRUCTIONS RECEIVED REFTEL (A).
 2. DELEGATION MET EARLY THURSDAY, JUNE 9 WITH OTHER MEMBERS GENEVA GROUP (GG), EXPLAINED MODIFICATIONS OF U.S. POSITION CONCERNING TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROGRAM AND ADVISED GG OUR WILLINGNESS SUPPORT TCP FOR 1977-78 WOULD NOT INVOLVE ANY COMMITMENT FOR SUCCEEDING BIENNIA. GG WAS ADVISED WE INTENDED DEVELOP POSITION FULLY WITH DIRECTOR-GENERAL SAOUMA WITH WHOM APPOINTMENT WAS SET FOR LATE A.M. NO MEMBER GG DISSENTED WITH U.S. APPROACH. FRG WISHED KNOW IF
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PAGE 02 ROME 09653 01 OF 02 101542Z

U.S. PROPOSED RESERVATION ON BUDGET LEVEL IN COUNCIL WAS MAINLY FOR PURPOSE OF SEEING HOW TCP ISSUE EVOLVED. WE AGREED THIS LARGELY WAS INTENT BUT WE ALSO WISHED WAIT UNTIL NOVEMBER TO LEARN TCP COMMITMENT TOTAL AND FAO FINANCIAL SITUATION AT THAT TIME.

3. IN BRIEF DISCUSSION ON BUDGET LEVEL FRANCE EXPRESSED

"TRADITIONAL" POSITION OF NO MORE THAN 10 PERCENT BUDGET GROWTH PER YEAR. (LATER IN COUNCIL, FRENCH SAID SUCH BUDGET-ING WOULD REDUCE PROPOSED \$206.8 MILLION TO \$202 MILLION.) JAPAN EXPRESSED FIRST PREFERENCE FOR ZERO GROWTH INCREASE BUT SECOND PREFERENCE FOR "MODEST" ONE. THE UK SAID LEVEL WAS HIGHER THAN DESIRED BUT THEY HAD TO BE REALISTIC CONCERNING CHANCES TO REDUCE. GROUP AGREED TO QUESTION BUDGET LEVEL IN VARIETY WAYS IN COUNCIL BUT LEAVE FINAL VIES FOR NOVEMBER CONFERENCE.

4. GROUP HAD BRIEF DISCUSSION CONCERNING ARRANGEMENTS FOR 19TH CONFERENCE AND GG INSISTENCE ON HAVING DEVELOPED COUNTRIES OBTAIN CHAIRMANSHIP OF EITHER COMMISSION 1 OR 2 OF CONFERENCE IF CONFERENCE PRESIDENT AND CHAIRMAN COMMISSION 3 POSITIONS GO TO LDC'S. CH-CHAIRMAN OF GG WERE ASKED CONVEY VIEW IN STRONGEST TERMS TO COUNCIL INDEPENDENT CHAIRMAN BULA HOYAS (WHO HAD ALERTED US TO FAST SHUFFLE BEING CONTEMPLATED, ALLEGEDLY BY DIRECTOR GENERAL AND G-77) AND SELECTED MEMBER COUNTRIES. GROUP THEN DECIDED MEET AGAIN EARLY JUNE 10.

5. LATER IN MORNING, FRANK AND BYRNES MET PRIVATELY WITH DIRECTOR GENERAL WHO NOT SURPRISINGLY APPEARED HAVE ADVANCE INFORMATION CONCERNING OUR POSITION. TALK WAS THOROUGHLY AMIABLE, AND WE THINK CONSTRUCTIVE, AND THERE APPEARS TO BE REASONABLE CHANCE WE CAN HAVE SATISFACTORY EVALUATION OF TCP BY LATE 1978. OUR OFF-THE-CUFF REACTION IS THAT WE CAN SUCCEED IN SOMEWHAT REALIGNING TCP EVENTUALLY, THAT WE CAN INFLUENCE ITS FUTURE SIZE BUT THAT WE CANNOT IN FORESEEABLE FUTURE TERMINATE IT COMPLETELY.
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PAGE 03 ROME 09653 01 OF 02 101542Z

6. BEFORE RESPONDING TO OUR PITCH ALONG LINES REFTELS (A) AND (B), SAOUMA PLEADED FOR US FIND SOME WAY TO OBTAIN AID CONTRIBUTION TO FAO FOR POST-HARVEST LOSSES OR TO CHANNEL SOME AID-FINANCED BILATERAL ACTIVITY THROUGH FAO. HE ALSO SPOKE OF CONSIDERABLE POSITIVE EFFECT WHICH TCP IS HAVING AND STRESSED PERSONAL ATTENTION HE IS GIVING PROGRAM. HE MAINTAINED FUNDS ARE GOING FOR ACTIVITIES WITH DEMONSTRABLE RESULTS, NOT BOOKS, STUDIES OR MEETINGS.

7. HE SEEMED HAVE LITTLE DIFFICULTY WITH EVALUATION AS SUCH BUT STATED FRANKLY IT WILL NOT RESULT IN TERMINATION TCP. LDC'S ARE ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT IT. EVALUATION MAY REVEAL SOME MISTAKES OR REVEAL DISAGREEMENTS BETWEEN UNDP AND FAO REPRESENTATIVES BUT THESE WILL BE FEW. ALTHOUGH HE WOULD STRONGLY PREFER TO USE ONLY HIS OWN EVALUATION SERVICE, HE ACQUIESCED IN SOME COORDINATION OF OUTSIDE EXPERTS ASSISTED BY HIS STAFF. LATER HE THOUGH COULD HELP SURMOUNT RECIPIENT COUNTRY CONCERN OVER INFRINGEMENT ON SOVEREIGNTY AND MAKE EVALUATION POSSIBLE.

8. HE HAD SOME CONCERN THAT RESORT TO EXPERTS COULD BE INTERPRETED BY SOME AS LACK OF CONFIDENCE IN HIM BUT RELUCTANTLY ACCEPTED FRANK'S VIEW THAT EVALUATION HAD TO BE HANDLED IN SUCH FASION AS TO LEAVE NO DOUBTS CONCERNING OBJECTIVITY. OUR MENTION OF WISHING HAVE EVALUATION REPORT GO DIRECTLY TO COUNCIL RAISED SIMILAR OBJECTION BUT WE AGREED THAT HANDLING REPORT AND MAKE UP OF TEAM WERE MATTERS ON WHICH WE COULD INFORMALLY CONSULT BEFORE COUNCIL CONFERENCE IN NOVEMBER. HE SAID HE WILL BE IN NEW YORK IN LATE OCTOBER FOR ACC MEETINGS AND CAN EITHER COME TO WASHINGTON THEN OR SEND ADG WEST TO CONSULT EARLIER. HE DOES NOT WANT U.S. TO HAVE A VETO ON WHOM HE WILL APPOINT BUT MADE CLEAR HE WILL COOPERATE.

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PAGE 01 ROME 09653 02 OF 02 101556Z
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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 2 OF 2 ROME 9653

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9. WHEN ITEM 16, PROGRAM OF WORK AND BUDGET 1977-78 WAS OPENED FOR DEBATE IN AFTERNOON SESSION, U.S. SPOKE THIRD. TEXT CONTAINING COMMENTS ON TCP AND BUDGET LEVEL FOR 1977-78 FOLLOWS: BEGIN TEXT:

CONCERNING THE TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROGRAM (TCP), THE UNITED STATES WILL SUPPORT A CONTINUATION DURING THE BIENNIUM 1978-79 NOTWITHSTANDING OUR CONCERN ABOUT A POLICY OF USING ASSESSED BUDGET FUNDS TO SUPPORT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS. OUR CONCERN DERIVES FROM THE FACT THAT WE THINK THE TCP COULD BE DETRIMENTAL TO OUR OVERALL SUPPORT FOR DEVELOPMENTAL ASSISTANCE IN THE LONG TERM AND THUS NOT BE IN THE INTEREST

EITHER OF DEVELOPING OR DEVELOPED COUNTRIES.

WE SHOULD RECALL THAT THE TCP BEGAN AT A TIME WHEN THE RESOURCES AVAILABLE FROM THE UNDP WERE SUDDENLY REDUCED. IT ALSO AROSE, WE RECOGNIZE, FROM THE LEGITIMATE NEED OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR SOME AMOUNT OF RESOURCES TO MEET UNFORESEEN EMERGENCY NEEDS IN THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

MY GOVERNMENT BELIEVES MATTERS HAVE CHANGED SIGNIFICANTLY
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PAGE 02 ROME 09653 02 OF 02 101556Z

SINCE THE TCP ORIGINATED. UNDP RESOURCES, WHICH WERE SO UNCERTAIN IN LATE 1975 AND EARLY 1976, ARE ONCE AGAIN INCREASING AND THE PROSPECTS FOR FURTHER GROWTH IS GOOD. MANY OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE SHORTCOMINGS OF UNDP HAVE BEEN CORRECTED, OR SOON WILL BE, AND IMPROVED MANAGEMENT IS EVIDENT. MY GOVERNMENT PLANS TO CONTINUE TO INCREASE ITS CONTRIBUTION TO THE UNDP, AND TO ENCOURAGE OTHER DONORS TO DO SO, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME, SUPPORTING FAO AS THE MAIN EXECUTING AGENCY FOR UNDP-FINANCED ASSISTANCE IN THE FIELDS OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY.

MR. CHAIRMAN, I MUST SAY THAT AS WE HAVE SOUGHT LEGISLATIVE APPROVAL FOR OUR ASSESSED CONTRIBUTIONS TO FAO AND OTHER AGENCIES, AND OUR VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE UNDP, WE HAVE ENCOUNTERED STRONG CRITICISM OF THE PROLIFERATION OF FUNDING FOR DIRECT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE. IT IS CLEAR TO US THAT IF WE ARE TO BE ABLE TO CONVINCE OUR LEGISLATURE THAT PART OR ALL OF THE TCP IS WORTHY OF FUTURE SUPPORT, WE MUST FIND A WAY TO TAKE A LOOK AT HOW THE TCP IS OPERATING, WHAT IS BEING ACCOMPLISHED, AND HOW THE TCP FITS INTO THE OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL EFFORT.

WE WERE MUCH PLEASED BY THE DIRECTOR GENERAL'S STATEMENT OF LAST MONDAY. WE WELCOME HIS PLANS TO USE GREATER PORTIONS OF THE TCP FOR EMERGENCY PURPOSES AND QUICK-REACTION PROJECTS IN THE FORTHCOMING BIENNIUM. THIS UNDOUBTEDLY REFLECTS THE IMPROVING FINANCIAL SITUATION IN THE UNDP.

WE WERE ALSO PLEASED, MR. CHAIRMAN, TO HEAR THE DIRECTOR GENERAL PROPOSE AN EVALUATION OF THE TCP. WE BELIEVE THIS WOULD BE USEFUL IN HELPING TO CRYSTALLIZE OUR THINKING CONCERNING THE CONTINUING NEED FOR A TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROGRAM IN FAO. WE WHOLEHEARTEDLY SUPPORT HIS EFFORT. WE HOPE HE CAN SUGGEST PROCEDURES LEADING TOWARDS A COUNCIL REPORT WHICH WILL SATISFY ALL GOVERNMENTS THAT THE EVALUATION WAS OBJECTIVELY CARRIED OUT. THIS MIGHT BEST BE ACCOMPLISHED.
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PAGE 03 ROME 09653 02 OF 02 101556Z

ED BY SOME COMBINATION OF EXPERTS AND FAO STAFF BUT THIS IS A MATTER WHICH THE DIRECTOR GENERAL WILL STUDY.

WE WOULD IMAGINE THAT, TO BE MOST USEFUL, THE EVALUATION WOULD HAVE TO BE COMPLETED IN TIME FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE 74TH FAO COUNCIL IN NOVEMBER 1978.

SHOULD OUR THINKING BE ROUGHLY IN ACCORD WITH THAT OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL, PERHAPS HE COULD ADVISE US IN THE 72ND COUNCIL, WHICH MEETS JUST PRIOR TO THE CONFERENCE, OF HIS DETAILED PLANNING FOR THE EVALUATION. HE WISELY PROVIDED US IN 1976 WITH CRITERIA FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TCP, SO THERE IS A BASIS FOR LOOKING NOW AT WHAT HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED.

MR. CHAIRMAN, I HAVE NOT MENTIONED A BUDGET LEVEL FOR 1978-79 BECAUSE WE WISH TO GIVE DETAILED STUDY TO THE PROGRAMS AND SUBPROGRAMS OF THE FINAL PROGRAM OF WORK AND BUDGET PROPOSALS, WHICH WE UNDERSTAND WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE UNTIL SEPTEMBER. WE WILL BE PREPARED TO ADDRESS THE BUDGET LEVEL ISSUE IN THE 72ND COUNCIL AND THE CONFERENCE IN NOVEMBER. END TEXT

10. DEBATE ON ITEM 16 CONTINUES JUNE 10 AND WILL BE REPORTED SEPARATELY. HOWEVER, A FEW KEY DONOR COUNTRIES FOLLOWED OUR LINE IN THEIR EARLY INTERVENTIONS ON JUNE 9. GARDNER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BUDGETS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS), FOODS, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE, MEETING REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 10-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
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Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
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